

ANNOUNCING BIRTH OF QUEEN'S CHILD.



The birth of the little princess of the Netherlands was announced in The Hague—some two hours after the event—by a salute of 51 guns. Further, heralds, each accompanied by two trumpeters and police, and clad in old Dutch costume, proclaimed the news at various points. The proclamation read as follows: "Fellow Citizens,—with great joy we announce that her majesty, by the Grace of God, has been delivered of a princess. The entire population of The Hague shares the feelings of deep joy. The Dutch people is thankful for the blessing bestowed upon the Royal House and the country. May the happy event strengthen the bonds uniting the Netherlands and Orange. Long live the queen! Long live the young princess of Orange."

Description of the Damascus to Mecca Railroad System

Deputy Consul John D. Whiting, of Jerusalem, made a journey over the Damascus and Mecca Railway, and describes the line and its equipment as follows:

The rails used in the construction are all steel and come from the United States. From Damascus to Daraa wooden ties were laid, which are already being replaced by iron ones. From Daraa south only iron ties, which also come from the United States, are used.

Some of the flat cars and the freight cars came from Belgium, while the passenger cars are from Germany. The first-class cars are of the compartment style, a corridor running clear through on one side of the car, which opens the small compartments which accommodate eight persons each. They are finely upholstered, and cost 25,000 francs (\$4,600) each. Until now there have been no second-class cars. The third-class cars are fitted up with stout wooden benches in rows, with an aisle running through the center. They are not upholstered and have no curtains, but have glass windows and shutters. They cost 19,000 francs (\$3,800) each.

This road has been built by the Turkish Government, assisted to a small extent by the contributions of devout Mohammedans. Mesner Pasha, a German, has control of the construction of the road, and is assisted by other European engineers. The greater part of the manual labor has been done by the regular Turkish soldiers without extra pay.

The Damascus station of the railway is situated at the extreme southern end of that part of the city called the Medan. In viewing Damascus from the heights to the north-west the city resembles a saucer or a spoon with a round bowl, the main part being round and the quarter called the Medan corresponding to the handle. The latter practically a single long street. The station consists of several buildings, some of which are ware and baggage houses. Large repair shops are being erected. The present station building is a small affair, but is probably that a suitable structure will soon be built.

Features of Country Traversed. On leaving Damascus the road runs southward, entering what is known as the Hauran. This is a vast plain almost entirely devoted to the raising of wheat and barley, both of excellent quality. Shortly after leaving Damascus the snow-capped Hermon can be seen to the west. All the rock in this district is black asphalt, indicating a volcanic origin. The buildings of the villages passed and the ruins on ancient cities as well as constructed of this material, which tends to give a weird aspect to the scene, especially after the grain has been harvested and the ground is bare and brown.

The first station of any importance reached is Daraa. To the south-west a large village is in view. The station consists of a number of buildings, one of which is a large repair shop where many disabled locomotives can be seen waiting for repairs. Here also is a restaurant where a very good meal is served to travelers. There is also a postoffice and an international telegraph office where messages can be sent in any Euro-

pean language, as well as in Arabic and Turkish. From here a branch road runs westward, down through the wild and picturesque Yarmuk Valley, touching the Sea of Galilee at Semakh, crossing the Jordan, and traversing the Plain of Esdraelon to Haifa on the seaboard. When the Mecca Railway was begun all materials for its construction had to be carried from Beirut across the Lebanon to Damascus by the French Railway, but the rates charged the Turkish Government by that line were so high that it was decided to build this side line, giving the Mecca Railway direct communication with a seaport. This line is now quite extensively patronized by tourists going to and from Damascus by way of Haifa or Tiberias. After leaving Haifa and passing a station or two on the plain, Semakh, at the south end of the Sea of Galilee, or Lake of Tiberias, is reached, from which boats carry passengers to Tiberias. The road then proceeds up the wild gorge of the Yarmuk. The engineering of the road through this narrow valley shows great skill, the slides in some places presenting a perpendicular face of solid rock several hundred feet in height.

Points of Interest on the Main Line. On emerging from this valley this road joins the main line of the Mecca road to Daraa as mentioned. Here tourists lunch, going either way. There is now a daily service on this side line, although until recently the trains ran only three times a week.

Proceeding southward on the main line, the next station of importance reached is Aman, the site of the ancient Rabbath Ammon. Here are some fine ruins of a theater, churches, etc. The next station of importance is Katrene, after which Mahan, or Maan el Hadj, is reached. This little town is located in a desert, and the only excuse for its existence is that at the few wells of brackish water the Mohammedan pilgrim on their way to Medina and Mecca used to spend a day in order to obtain food for themselves and their animals for the long journey before them. This place consists really of two towns, one for each of the two sects or factions which made the pilgrimage.

From this point about 8 hours' horseback ride to the west brings one to the unique and fascinating ruins of Petra. They lie in a valley with precipitous sides of sandstone, of all the colors of the rainbow, in which are hewn out over a thousand temples, tombs, theaters, high places of sacrifice, etc., the only approach to which is from the east through a narrow passage in the rocks, about a mile in length and only wide enough for a single horseman to ride through at a time. Much has been written on this most interesting site, and it is now mentioned only because the Mecca Railway has made it possible for the tourists of average means to visit it.

The trains run still farther south, but the writer has been no farther than Mahan, and so can not describe the road further from personal observation. One of the places now interesting archeologists is Median Salih, where are temples and tombs similar to those of Petra.

One of Life's Sad Facts. Pay days come and pay days go, but bills go on forever.

UNITED STATES STEEL INCREASES ITS DIVIDEND

Common Stockholders Get Additional Fourth of One Per Cent for Quarter—Earnings Advance.

NEW YORK, July 28.—A quarterly dividend of $\frac{1}{4}$ of 1 per cent on the common stock was declared yesterday by the directors of the United States Steel Corporation.

This is an increase of $\frac{1}{4}$ of 1 per cent as compared with that of the last previous quarter. A quarterly dividend of $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent was declared on the preferred stock. This dividend was unchanged from the last quarter.

The net earnings for the quarter were \$23,323,395, as compared with \$16,353,999 for the corresponding quarter of 1908. The surplus for the quarter was \$5,894,444 as compared with \$195,595 for the corresponding quarter last year; an increase of \$5,698,849.

The unfilled orders on June 30 were 4,037,939 tons, an increase of 744,063 tons as compared with the same quarter last year.

The increase of one quarter of one per cent in the common stock division is regarded as a compromise between those who wanted a one per cent advance and the faction which was opposed to any increase at this time.

One of the most significant features of the quarterly statement is the big increase shown in the business for May, and even greater increase for June, although the latter month with but few exceptions has always been one of large earnings.

Officials of the corporation declined to give an intimation regarding the business for the current month which is believed will be in excess of that of June.

WOULD PUT PROHIBITION IN STATE CONSTITUTION

Governor Comer, of Alabama, Objects to Having Liquor an Issue in Every Election.

MONTGOMERY, ALA., July 28.—In his message to the legislature, which met yesterday Governor R. B. Comer advised making prohibition constitutional because the members who passed the present law no doubt intended a revision in the relation of the state to liquor and had in mind fixing it so that the state would never again have saloons or liquor licenses.

In his opinion, prohibition should be disposed of so that it will not be a recurrent issue at every election and a disturbing factor in the politics of the state.

Necessity for further statutory prohibition acts are found, the governor thinks, in the fact that in many sections the law has been disregarded. He deplored the effort to defeat the laws by spending money, and thinks it a sad state of affairs when citizens have to organize law and order leagues to enforce the laws that officers are paid to enforce, concluding that when officers of the law criminalize themselves, anarchy is drawing near.

RECKLESS DEPORTING OF ALIENS

Immigration Bureau Rebukes Over-Active Inspectors.

WASHINGTON, July 28.—"Of late the arresting and deporting of aliens has increased enormously and a tendency is noted in some cases to sacrifice quality of work to quantity. This will not do. There must be no merely superficial inquiry in any cases. Officers must not submit a recommendation for arrest upon irresponsible, uninvestigated accusations."

This was the sharp rebuke administered in instructions which have just been sent out by the bureau of immigration and inspectors in charge, directing attention to the failure of investigating officers in making thorough preliminary inquiry, especially in cases of alleged violation of the alien contracts labor law.

The circular letter of instructions points out that the bureau of immigration recently has had its attention directed in a very forceful manner to the fact that immigration officers do not observe in the handling of warrant cases the admonitions contained in the immigration regulations which caution officers in the care to be exercised in conducting an investigation into the cases of aliens believed to be in this country in violation of the law.

ROW OVER PITCHER.

New York Americans Claim Vaughn, Whom Brooklyn Has Brought.

MAON, GA., July 28.—James Vaughn, leading left hand pitcher of the Macon South-Atlantic League team, has been sold to Brooklyn for \$1,500. The New York Americans claim Vaughn, alleging he was left with Macon this year under an optional agreement.

Former owners of the Macon franchise sold Vaughn to Cincinnati and received the money. The club changed hands the franchise being forfeited to the league. Today's deal was made by the new owners.

Cretans to Join Greece.

CANEA, CRETE, July 28.—The Greek flag has been run up at the fortress and the Cretan militia barracks here. As the evacuation of the international troops only was completed yesterday, the Cretans lost no time in testing the disposition of the powers, who have promised Turkey that they will protect her rights. The outcome of this assertion of the Cretans' determination to join Greece is awaited with some concern.

WHAT THEY MEANT



firmly. "I am not going away for the summer," said she.

Apparently that ended the matter, but Kennedy laid down his fork.

"Why, Louise!" he said. "You know you've not spent a summer in Chicago since you were a child! Your family always sent you away for the heated spell! Why shouldn't you?"

"I wasn't married then," broke in young Mrs. Kennedy. "There wasn't any reason why I shouldn't."

"Well, there isn't any reason now," said Kennedy. "Just because you've left home and mother is no sign that you've got to stay here and broil and maybe fall ill! I'll find some nice cool place so near that I can come for week-ends and I can get my own breakfasts and dine at the club."

"Now, Jimmy," said his wife, clasping her hands beneath her chin and resting her elbows on the table, "I know it's just your wonderful selfishness that's prompting you! Why, you'd die of your loneliness, you know you would! With me gone all summer! Now, wouldn't you?"

"Not at all!" said her husband heartily.

"Why, the idea!" she flashed.

"Well, did you want me to say yes and strengthen your argument?" he asked, hastily. "Of course, I'd miss you, but—"

"I don't believe you'd care at all!" cried young Mrs. Kennedy, with round eyes, surveying him reproachfully. "I think six months of married life has begun to wear on you and you long for a chance to go around with the boys and be free again and have a good time! Jimmy Kennedy, I never thought of you! I know other men feel that way, but—"

"That's utterly absurd!" interrupted young Kennedy, sternly. "You should know better! It's merely that I'm looking out for your own good, and—"

"That's easily said!" his wife cried. "You just made a slip of the tongue and are trying to cover it up! Confess that it would be a relief to have me out of the way—"

"I'm surprised at you," said her husband. "Surprised that you could attribute such motives to me! I'd wander around like a lost soul during the middle of the week!"

"I'm not so sure," said Mrs. Kennedy, darkly. "I've heard how men act when their wives are gone! They don't sit around and mourn! They go around and have a fearfully good time."

Young Kennedy looked as if a great light suddenly had broken over him. He ceased mixing a salad dressing. "I see now," he remarked with icy dignity, "why you've refused to consider going away! It hasn't been in the least because you'd be lonely without me or were afraid I'd be lonely without you or because it is a wife's duty to stay at home when her husband is working hard, as you said the other day—it's just because you're afraid to go away and leave me free and unhampered! You're suspicious of me! You don't trust me!"

"If that were so it wouldn't be any worse than your reason for wanting me to go! Just because you are tired of me—"

"And trying all the time to make me think you wouldn't go because you couldn't bear to be away from me—"

"And I thought you were urging me out of the goodness of your heart instead of realizing your plan to send me away—"

"Nonsense!"

"Nonsense yourself!"

"Kennedy brought down his fist. 'I'll not be browbeaten!' he cried. 'You're going away for the summer!'"

"I'll not be ordered about!" said young Mrs. Kennedy with tremendous dignity, getting to her feet. "I won't!"

With her chin in the air she started to pass him, stumbled on her skirt and he caught her, whereupon she burst into tears on his shoulder.

"I'm a brute!" he cried wildly.

"No, I am!" she sobbed.

"I didn't want you to go away at all!"

"Honest?"

"Honest!"

That is why young Kennedy and his wife will take a two week's vacation together this year.

Potato-Raising States

In the United States the great potato state is New York, with 42,000,000 bushels; in 1907 Michigan followed with 27,000,000; then Pennsylvania and Wisconsin with about 23,000,000 each; Maine, 17,000,000; Minnesota and Illinois about 14,000,000 each; Iowa and Ohio, 12,000,000 each; New Jersey, 2,000,000 to 3,000,000; Indiana, Missouri, Colorado, California and Nebraska about 1,000,000. The rest run from Washington and Kansas, with 4,000,000 each, down to Montana and Texas, with from 1,000,000 to 3,000,000.

AN ANCIENT ONE.

M. Hamelin, the police magistrate of Paris, was the victim of a venerable practical joke on April 1. It began in the early morning with the arrival at his residence in the Avenue Henri Martin of several carts of coal, followed by a continuous procession all day of other vehicles conveying similarly unordered goods—five pianos, jars of cod liver oil, hams, mineral waters and vegetables—while among the visitors whose services were supposed to be required were an embalmer, a masseur, an undertaker, and half a dozen pedicures. Altogether 322 vehicles drove up to the house in the course of the day. Amid the confusion M. Hamelin went quietly to preside as usual at the police court.—London Daily News.

Particular About the Butter.

"Ma wants two pounds of butter exactly like what you sent us last. If it ain't exactly like that she won't take it," said the small boy.

The grocer turned to his numerous customers and remarked, blandly: "Some people in my business don't like particular customers, but I do. It's my delight to serve them and get them what they want. I will attend to you in a moment, little boy."

"Be sure to get the same kind," said the boy. "I lot of pa's relations is visiting at our house, and ma doesn't want 'em to come again."

A Tale of Tennyson.

Tennyson was once dilating to a friend on the charms of a pipe before breakfast.

"It is the most delightful smoke of the day," said he.

"Yes, yes!" replied his friend. "The first sweet pipe of the awakened bard!"

Thereby making a reconstruction from Tennyson's own words, needing the change of but one vowel.—Harper's Weekly.

Startling.

"Yes, our table is always up to date," boasted the landlady. "We have those beautiful red candles on it at supper time."

"Candles for supper!" gasped the prospective boarder. "Madam, do you think I am an Eskimo?"

SAGE ADVICE.



Johnny—The boss said that you would pay this little bill to-day.

Mr. Hunk—You mustn't believe all people tell you.

For Titles.

Count Bon's coming here to hunt. Financed, no doubt, by money sharks. And he will find as he once found. That heireses are easy marks.

Getting Ready for the Opera.

"Aren't you ready, dear?" he called upstairs.

"Not quite," was the wife's reply.

"It ought not to take you so long to put your hat on."

"I'm not going to wear any hat."

"Well, it ought not to take you so long not to put one on!"—Yonkers Statesman.

From Different Viewpoints.

Anxious Mother—I cannot permit you to have such late callers. It was after 11 o'clock when Mr. Huggins left last night.

Pretty Daughter—Why, mamma, I don't see how you can class Mr. Huggins as a late caller. It was only 7:30 when he came.

Parental Wisdom.

The Friend—Your son graduates from college this term, I believe?

The Father—Yes.

The Friend—Going to set him up in business, I suppose?

The Father—Not right away. I'm going to send him to school awhile first.

As Amended.

His Wife—Charity covers a multitude of sins, they say.

Her Husband—Yes, it certainly does—especially when it begins at home.

The Ruse That Failed.

Tomplins had just dropped a half-penny in front of the blind beggar to see if he would pick it up.

Beggar—Make it stimpence, gov'nor, an' I'll forget meself.

The Test.

"She has as many satellites as a luminous planet."

"Ah, but how many rings can she show?"

Encouragement.

"Miss Emma, I love thee."

"Well, now you are down on your knees you may as well tie my shoe laces."

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